

1 12 hours to get an application. Our membership is
2 very stable. Many are college educated and work for
3 their entire career at the carpentry trade. They earn
4 fair wages and benefits for their work, and they're
5 involved in many volunteer activities, including
6 construction of parks for the children, renovation
7 work in numerous churches, and we hold golf and
8 fishing tournaments annually where the proceeds are
9 donated to benefit the South Jersey Cancer Fund.

10 Casino gaming has improved the quality of
11 life for every working carpenter, whether employed
12 directly or indirectly in the industry.

13 Commissioners, I remember the good old
14 days and hope they never return.

15 I wish to conclude with a thank you to the
16 gaming industry for the much improved quality of life
17 they provide all their employees.

18 Thank you.

19 CHAIRMAN JAMES: Thank you.

20 Dorothea Meltzer.

21 MS. MELTZER: Good evening. My name is
22 Dorothea Meltzer. I serve as chairman of the Board of

1 Governors of Atlantic City Medical Center.

2 I grew up in Atlantic City. I raised my
3 family in this community and have been active in
4 business and civic affairs all of my life. This
5 evening I would like to share my perspective on the
6 development of Atlantic City in the past 20 years and
7 the impact that it has had on health care.

8 Since 1854, people have come to Atlantic
9 City to have fun. Long before gaming, Atlantic City
10 was America's favorite playground, and for 100 years
11 Atlantic City Medical Center has been the only
12 hospital in Atlantic City to take care of the visitors
13 who fell ill while visiting us.

14 When you think about that for a moment, we
15 are in a rather unique position. I can't think of
16 another community in the United States that has quite
17 the demographics of Atlantic City. Thirty-five
18 thousand permanent residents, 35 million visitors, and
19 only one hospital.

20 As a medical center, we have served
21 residents and visitors to our community before gaming,
22 and we continue to provide services after gaming.

1 At no time in our 100 year history has the
2 medical center's infrastructure been stronger. As
3 gaming has increased the attractiveness of Atlantic
4 City as a destination, more visitors have arrived each
5 year putting more pressure on our facilities and
6 personnel to deliver service.

7 At each stage along the way, the hotel
8 casinos of Atlantic City have been there to support
9 the development of outstanding health care facilities
10 for the community. In the early years, that support
11 ranged from revenues gained from video arcades to a
12 major benefit featuring Frank Sinatra, which helped
13 our medical center at a critical time.

14 When vehicular traffic to Atlantic City
15 grew to a new critical mass that required our medical
16 center to invest in the development of a trauma
17 center, the casinos with CRDA were there to help us
18 build a state-of-the-art facility.

19 We will break ground for a \$14 million
20 ambulatory care center for the community in April,
21 with the support of the casino industry and CRDA. I
22 don't want to give you the impression that when I use

1 the term "support" I am recognizing only financial
2 support. There is much more than that.

3 It's the talent that resides within these
4 enterprises, the time commitment to help the social
5 service structure grow and develop. You must remember
6 that casino gambling not only made Atlantic City a
7 more successful tourist destination, but a better
8 community, a community which could develop new
9 standards and improve quality of life for its people.

10 The partnership that exists between
11 government, the industry, and the social sector has
12 allowed tax dollars to find their way directly back
13 into the community, to focus on those projects and
14 programs which raise the standard of care and quality
15 of life.

16 As a result, Atlantic City Medical Center
17 is now better prepared than ever before to meet
18 increasing demands on our health care delivery system
19 because we have partners, partners in government and
20 partners in this industry that care as much as we do
21 about the quality and delivery of health care
22 services.

1 Thank you.

2 CHAIRMAN JAMES: Thank you, and I do
3 appreciate the opportunity to have visited there
4 yesterday. It is quite a facility.

5 MS. MELTZER: Thank you.

6 CHAIRMAN JAMES: Thank you.
7 Gene Roach. Mr. Roach here?

8 (No response.)

9 CHAIRMAN JAMES: Sidney Meadows.

10 MR. MEADOWS: Good evening. My name is --

11 CHAIRMAN JAMES: Good evening.

12 MR. MEADOWS: My name is Sidney Meadows.

13 I can remember graduating from high
14 school, seeking full-time employment, not having a
15 trade, not being able to find a full-time job. I left
16 and went into the service.

17 After having served in the Armed Forces
18 and returning home as a Vietnam vet, still having a
19 hard time finding full-time employment, I took to
20 piece work, odd jobs, working on docks, et cetera, et
21 cetera, et cetera, barely making ends meet.

22 While sitting home one day watching a show